

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8827

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 6442

STATE PASS TO CHESKY, EA/TIMBS
PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION, FCA FROM AG ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR, ID
SUBJECT: RICE IMPORT PROJECTIONS FOR 1978/79 (APRIL-MARCH)

REF: FASTO 54

1. IN OUR CURRENT GRAIN AND FEED REPORT WE HAVE LOWERED RICE IMPORTS
ESTIMATE FOR 1978/79 TO 2.8 MILLION TONS AND CY 1978 RICE IMPORTS
ESTIMATED AT 2.3 MILLION TONS.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: MARKET DELIVERIES FROM WEST SEASON RICE

CROP HARVEST ARE SUCH THAT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES HAVE WEAKENED.
BULOG CEASED MARKET OPERATIONS, I.E. RELEASE OF STOCKS IN MAIN MARKETS

LAST MONTH AND DOES NOT PLAN ANY FURTHER RELEASES THROUGH JULY.
BULOG STOCKS PROJECTED TO RISE UP TO ONE MILLION TONS BY END OF MAY
BULOG ACCORDINGLY SEEKING TO DELAY IMPORT ARRIVALS. WE HAVE ASKED
BULOG FOR NEW PROJECTION OF MARCH 31, 1979 ENDING STOCKS WHICH COULD
BE HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS PROJECTIONS. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE
DOUBT WET SEASON CROP IS EXCELLENT BUT DRY SEASON CROP WHICH USUALLY
ACCOUNTS FOR 30 PERCENT OF TOTAL CY CROP IS STILL UNPREDICTABLE.

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OUR CURRENT FORECAST FOR CY 78 RICE CROP NOW 16.25 MILLION TONS.
IT IS POSSIBLE WITH NORMAL DRY SEASON CROP THE 1978 CROP WILL BE
HIGHER THAN 16.25 MILLION. WE NOT YET READY TO MAKE THIS OFFICIAL
HENCE THE LOU CLASSIFICATION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

3. 1978/79 PLANNED IMPORTS:

A. CARRYOVER OLD CONTRACTS APRIL 1, 1978

	(,000 TONS)	
INDIA	26	
PAKISTAN	52	
BURMA	66	
NORTH KOREA	91	
AUSTRALIA	25	
HONG KONG (PRC)	197	
USA (TITLE I, PL 480 CARRYOVER)		227
TOTAL CARRYOVER	684	

B. NEW COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

TAIWAN	300
AUSTRALIA	25
NORTH KOREA	50
HONG KONG (PRC)	300
SUB TOTAL	675

C. PLANNED BUT NOT CONTRACTED

THAILAND	200
PAKISTAN	100
BURMA	33
SUB TOTAL	333

D. FOOD AID

DURMA (KR JAPAN)	20
PL 480	350
JAPAN (SOFT LOAN)	100
SUB TOTAL	470

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TOTAL SCHEDULED IMPORTS 2,162

E. BULOG PLANNING DATA SHOWS MARCH 30, 1979 CARRYOVER
FIGURES AS FOLLOWS4

PL 480	150
NORTH KOREA	50
TAIWAN	200
THAILAND	200
BURMA	67
TOTAL	667

F. IN SUMMARY, BULOG PLANNING CALLS FOR ACTUAL IMPORTS OF 2,162 MILLION TONS PLUS CARRYOVER MARCH 31, 1979 OF 667,000 OR TOTAL APPARENT 1978/79 PURCHASES OF 2,829 MILLION TONS INCLUDING 500,000 TONS NEW PL 480 (INCLUDING 150,000 TON CARRYOVER FROM FY 78/79).

G. ATTACHE COMMENT: BASED ON CURRENT CROP ESTIMATE, POPULATION AND CONSUMPTION, WE BELIEVE ACTUAL IMPORTS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERABLE HIGHER THAN BULOG'S 2,162 MILLION TONS PLANNING FIGURE SHOWN ABOVE TO MEET ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS. UNLESS THE DOMESTIC CROP CONSIDERABLY EXCEEDS OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF 16.25 MILLION TONS, WE CONTINUE TO PREDICT ACTUAL IMPORT NEEDS TO BE ABOUT 2.8 MILLION TONS. SHOULD ATTACHE IMPORT ESTIMATES PROVE TO BE MORE CORRECT THAN CURRENT BULOG IMPORT PLANNING, SOME

PART OR ALL OF PLANNED CARRYOVER IN PARA 3 E. ABOVE COULD BE
MOVED FORWARD FOR ARRIVAL IN 1978/79.

4. APART FROM TEMPORARY STOCK BUILD UP MENTIONED APARA 2 WHICH COULD
TAX BULOG OWNED STORAGE CAPACITY OF ABOUT 1.1 MILLION TONS, WE SEE
NO PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS THAT WOULD PREVENT GOI REACHING PROJECTED
LEVEL OF IMPORTS. IF NEED BE, BULOG COULD LEASE SEVERAL HUNDRED
THOUSAND TONS MORE STORAGE SPACE.
MASTERS

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